

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Date of Decision: 22 April 2024

Subject: Grant Acceptance, Environment Agency Grant in Aid – Golburn Cough, Greenfield

Report Author: Jason Denniston, Highways Engineer

Ward (s): Saddleworth South

Reason for the decision: Oldham Council has secured funding from the following the Environment Agency – Grant in Aid

The purpose of this report is to confirm the value of the grant currently available to Oldham - £110,000 and to bring this additional resource into the transport capital programme to commence delivery of the scheme.

Summary: Oldham Council secured Environment Agency Grant in Aid of £53k in late 2020 for the purpose of progressing detailed investigation and design work for a flood management scheme at Golburn Clough in Greenfield where properties in the vicinity had experienced flooding.

In 2021, Oldham Council and Unity Partnership commissioned AECOM to prepare a business case for a flood alleviation scheme in the Golburn Clough area, Greenfield. The area had been identified as a local priority area for a flood risk management scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in the area. This business case was submitted to the Environment Agency in December 2021 with funding approved to deliver a flood alleviation scheme during 2022/23.

After various issues, the scheme started in

August 2023, with a view to be complete by April 2024. £180k contingency has already been released by the EA to start the scheme, and due to inflationary pressures, this paper requests approval to accept another £110k to complete the scheme.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered?

Option 1: accept the grant offer and deliver the above scheme in an appropriate timescale.

Option 2: do not accept the grant offer and therefore, do not deliver the above scheme.

Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.

No conflicts of interest to note.

Portfolio holder has been briefed on the grant award.

Recommendation(s):

Option 1: accept the grant offer and deliver the above scheme in an appropriate timescale.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The Council has been awarded an additional £110k of Grant in Aid funding via the Environment Agency for the flood management scheme at Golburn Clough.

It advises that the cost to complete the flood management scheme will be an additional £110k and will be capital expenditure.

The Council currently receives £3.067m of City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding from GMCA per annum for a range of Highway related schemes.

With reference to the below table, the total cost of the scheme is expected to be £860k, £299k of which is match funding in the form of CRSTS grant (£88.2k) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant (£211.2k).

Grant	2020.21	2021.22	2022.23	2023.24	2024.25	Grand Total
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Flood Defence-Local Levy Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	188.30	0.00	188.30
Grant in Aid	33.55	8.94	69.16	27.98	122.68	262.31

Proposed additional Grant in Aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.00	110.00
CRSTS Grant match funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.23	88.23
UK Shared Prosperity Fund match funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.89	115.27	211.16
Grand Total	33.55	8.94	69.16	312.17	436.18	860.00

It should be noted, the contingency of £180k Grant in Aid which was applied at the beginning of the scheme has already been absorbed within the above forecast and is expected to be spent.

In the event of the scheme costing more than £860k, this will need to be funded by utilising CRSTS or UKSPF funding within the 2024.25 Capital Programme.

(John Edisbury)

What are the **legal** implications?

In discussions between the client department and procurement it transpired that the original social value offer agreed with the contractor fell short of the agreed KPI's set as set out in the overarching Framework Agreement. In view of this the social value offer should be re-visited as part of any instruction for additional works and any agreed uplift should be reflected on the social value portal and recorded in the call off documentation.

(Sukie Kaur, Solicitor)

What are the **procurement** implications?

Rowan Ashworth have been awarded a 4 year framework agreement in 2021 to deliver a programme of highway improvement and high specification public realm works in and around Oldham Town Centre.

An NEC call off contract for this scheme was agreed and executed at the time the original works were instructed and with risk and liability allocated to minimise risk exposure to the Council – additional works that are the subject of

this report will require a formal variation (under threshold) to be instructed under the contract.

The original social value offer agreed by the client department fell short of the agreed KPI, set as part of the overarching framework agreement – the social value offer should be re-visited as part of the instruction for additional works and any agreed uplift reflected on the social value portal.

(Dan Cheetham)

*What are the **Human Resources** implications?*

N/A

Equality Impact

An EIA is considered not necessary at this stage of the project as the grant acceptance has no impact on any of the Protected Characteristics and/or groups.

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation.

This project is a scheme to divert flood risk for residents or all groups located in the catchment area.

(Jason Denniston)

*What are the **property** implications*

The Council has been awarded an additional £110k of Grant in Aid funding via the Environment Agency for the flood management scheme at Golburn Clough. This report outlines the acceptance of the grant and Property support this proposal. The works will allow the scheme to be completed, protecting homes and properties.

(Alison Evans – Interim Estates Team Leader)

Risk assessments:

The appointment of Rowan Ashworth to complete the scheme of works at Golburn Clough is an opportunity for potential flooding to be alleviated.

There could be reputation risks if the area is not refurbished in a reasonable time period following the original works being paused. The contractors appointed to carry out the works should provide their up to date insurance certificates and have appropriate risk assessments in place and are complying with the terms of the call off agreement.

(Vicki Gallacher, Head of Insurance and Information Governance)

Co-operative implications

The grant acceptance will allow works to be undertaken to reduce the flood risk to some residents who live within the borough, as such this is in line with our cooperative agenda.

(James Mulvaney, Policy Manager)

IT implications

None applicable

Environmental and Health and Safety implications

These will be assessed separately as part of the works due diligence and standard H&S reporting.

Community cohesions, including crime and disorder implications

None applicable

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	Jason Denniston
Date:	27.03.2024

Background:

There is a history of ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding within Greenfield. Notable recent flood events include Storm Eva in December 2015, in addition to incidents resulting from intense periods of rainfall during September 2016, November 2016 and September 2017.

The Golburn Clough is a tributary of the River Tame, a main river. The watercourse drains a steep rural catchment with its headwaters in the steep hills above of the village of Greenfield. The watercourse is heavily modified with culverted sections that pass beneath the urban area, with the latter section being approximately 400m in length. The lower extent of this culverted watercourse is heavily interconnected with the local highway drainage and surface water sewer network present beneath Wellington Road. Historically, flood flow conditions have resulted in a surcharging of the culvert and the associated drainage network, leading to internal flooding of the residential and commercial properties located on Wellington Road and Arthurs Lane.

In the absence of a formal Flood Alleviation Scheme, flooding will continue to impact local properties in the area. The consequence of flooding will worsen over time due to the anticipated effects of climate change in conjunction with the deteriorating condition of the existing culvert. Flood events are expected to become more frequent and severe in the absence of any further intervention.

Proposals:

The preferred option includes diverting two culverted watercourses from the existing network to discharge directly into the River Tame. In addition, the scheme will complete land drainage works to a section of the Pennine Bridleway and a detention basin. The outcomes/benefits of the scheme are reducing the flood risk to 15 residential and 9 non-residential properties and businesses in the locality.

Conclusions:

The funding approved is as follows:

* This contribution was agreed via a Delegated Cabinet Member report in November 2021 utilising underspend across the transport capital programme and represents an 11% local contribution to the scheme.

This precedent of an ~10% local contribution was set during the previous 6-year (2015-21) EA Flood Management Programme through which we have delivered three major flood management schemes across the borough utilising £1.46m of external funding.

**The £180,668 contingency is funded by £49,367 Grant in Aid and £131,301 Local Levy Fund. A separate process is followed to access the contingency funding for scheme delivery if need be. The costs of the scheme will be firmed up during the detailed design/tender stage and the contingency accessed at this stage if required. We currently are asking the EA for an additional amount of £110,000 to complete the scheme.

Approvals:



Signed :
Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Date: Wednesday, 24th April 2024

In consultation with:



Signed :
Cllr Goodwin, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods

Date: Wednesday 24th April 2024